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**The National Campaign Opened by Mr. Root.**  
ELIOT ROOR's speech to the Republican State Convention was a terrific arraignment of the Administration of Woodrow Wilson; and in most particulars, in our opinion, it was a just arraignment. With a precision and dignity of phrase matchless in contemporary American oratory, and with that sureness of perception of essentials which only great natural gifts of mind and wide experience of affairs can impart, the man whom TAMMORSE ROOSEVELT once described as the ablest statesman of the present generation in this or any other country marshalled the facts of performance and non-performance on which the people are to pass judgment in November. The indictment, we say, is terrible in its general verbal restraint and compelling power of specification; and yet as nearly as it is possible for human presence to forecast the verdict of history concerning President Wilson's character, deeds, words and failures, that we believe, ELIOT ROOR did last night in Carnegie Hall.

To summarize or paraphrase here this masterly address would indeed be superfluous. Every word of it will be read as eagerly by Republicans waiting for the keynote of attack as by Democrats searching for flaws on which to build defence. It is all there: the self-complacent destruction of business by follies of theory; the shameful chapter of interference in Mexico for the one purpose of overthrowing HUERTA; "the death and outrage, the suffering and ruin of our own brethren, the hatred and contempt for our country and the dishonor of our name in that land," for which, in Mr. ROOR's scathing words, "the Administration at Washington shares responsibility with the inhuman brutes with whom it made common cause"; the policy toward Europe since July, 1914, of extreme and belligerent expression, unsupported by resolution; the shaking of the fist first and of the finger afterward. This retrospect comes like a draught of fresh air full of oxygen into an atmosphere for three years stifling with artificiality, vacillations and hypocrisies.

The personal feature is not the least interesting. Threescore and eleven years old yesterday, ELIOT ROOR stood forth to deliver what is perhaps the greatest of a long series of remarkable forensic efforts. With undimmed vision and unimpaired power he faces the man who is going to ask the American people to continue him in the office of President; and he tells the impressive truth about a temperament and a training that have wrought failure and a nature that rejection cannot change.

One of these two men is undeniably a great man.

**The Secretary of Suppression.**  
To estimate the official morality of Secretary DANIELS's suppression of the report of the special court of inquiry investigating the causes of the explosion on the E-2 it is not necessary to go into the matters which formed the subject of study by the court. Public opinion is pretty well enlightened as to the general bearings of the fatal experiment with batteries invented by the Secretary's appointee to the chairmanship of the Naval Advisory Board.

Whether the fatal accident is attributable to inherent defects in the apparatus, to neglect by its promoters or their responsible agents to give proper warning of its dangerous peculiarities, or to incompetence or negligence of the precautions dictated by common sense in the handling of delicate machinery by naval men or officers, public opinion objects to such apparently unnecessary killings and wants to know that criminal carelessness or ignorance or neglect shall not

go unpunished, to establish a precedent of unfitness.  
If there is no one to be shielded or whitewashed, suppression of the report is a crassly stupid act, challenging suspicion uselessly and in disturbance of the public peace of mind. If guilty error is established, it should be made known.  
The one person who seems blissfully unconscious of the one service which Mr. JOSEPHUS DANIELS has in his power to render to the nation is Mr. JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

**A Singular Challenge.**  
As the ex-Governor of the Canal Zone, the Hon. RICHARD L. METCALFE, buried Mr. BRYAN politically nine months ago, the telegram to Miami challenging an old patron to debate preparedness in Nebraska may receive no notice. Soon after Mr. BRYAN retired with the Dove of Peace from the State Department, Mr. METCALFE, who had just withdrawn from the putative Governorship of the Canal Zone, printed an editorial in his Omaha newspaper saying that "Mr. BRYAN is not credited with having given the real reason for his retirement from the Cabinet"; charging him with deserting the President; concluding:

"Everywhere one hears predictions of the outcome of this matter, and to-day the general prediction is that BRYAN is forever dead."

But the proprietor of the *Commoner*, of which Mr. METCALFE was formerly editor, must be showing signs of resuscitation, or it wouldn't be worth a man's while to debate preparedness with him. Why does the Editor of *Achates* of other days want to galvanize him into life, and raise him up on the Nebraska platform only to floor him with straight lefts and right hooks of logic? It is a question hard to answer.

Did not Mr. BRYAN, in gratitude for past services in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900, obtain the job of Governor of the Canal Zone for his protégé, intimate and keeper of his conscience? A strange business! Would it be a bona fide rhetorical combat, or a prearranged bout for mutual political profit? It is to grope darkly. But if WILLIAM J. BRYAN takes up the gauntlet, and Mr. METCALFE, championing the cause of Woodrow Wilson, will tell all he knows of the ex-Secretary of State, and particularly what was the true reason for his splitting the side of the President with a "Gon bless you!" the Nebraska debate will sizzle with interest.

**Banking Sense at Washington.**  
There are instructive features in the annual report which the Federal Reserve Board has just sent to be submitted to Congress, the first in fact which has been based on actual operations such as were the purpose of the new banking machinery devised in the legislation of 1913.

Throughout its report the board here and there enunciates sound practical doctrine, as in the repetition of the conclusion expressed in its first report that to influence the money market "a reserve bank must always be in the market." One of the useful things which the Federal reserve system has already begun to do has been to carry forward, through the Federal Reserve Board, a desirable process of education which will make our bankers better bankers than they have ever been before. Sound traditions which should govern banking practice are being set up; and an excellent illustration of this is furnished by the board's findings in respect to foreign trade.

What might be called the basic text of the report is contained in the statement that "the financial history of the year has been to an unprecedented extent founded upon development of the export trade of the United States." Arguing from this text the board reaches a conclusion of practical sagacity which is in refreshing contrast with much of the theoretic fulfury that has been ventilated in other governmental or semi-governmental quarters in Washington.

We refer here to the ruling by the board that the Federal reserve banks not only can but should, if commercial bills based on exports of war munitions, provided the paper complies with the technical requirements of the Federal reserve act. The board makes it clear "that the purpose for which goods are sold or exported, or the use to which the goods are ultimately put," has nothing to do with the determination of the eligibility of paper for purchase by the reserve banks. If the paper otherwise falls within the limitations of the Federal reserve act it is a legitimate investment for reserve bank funds, "no matter by whom or for what drawn."

In order, apparently, that there shall be no doubt as to what is meant the report is at the pains to say that "it is not the province of the board to deal with problems involving international relationships of the United States, either for the purpose of restricting or extending exportations in one direction or another." Then, to drive its meaning home, the board adds that it "believes that the financing of the country's export trade is at the present time one of the most important financial problems with which the nation has to deal; and it is of the opinion that Federal reserve banks cannot, even if they would, avoid the responsibility of assisting in this process of financing what legitimately properly devolves upon them." In so many words, therefore, the Federal Reserve Board advises that the reserve banks that if eligible

paper based on war munition exports is offered them for purchase they should buy it if the paper is otherwise acceptable.  
This is cold common sense. The Iowa farmer who sells his grain cannot tell whether it is going to feed soldiers or civilians. The Southern cotton grower who disposes of his staple cannot know if it is going to be made up into shirts for mechanics or cartridge belts for an army. The markets cannot distinguish between commodities on other grounds than those of demand and supply, and it is no business of the banker, whose function it is to finance the movements of commerce, to discriminate against transactions because of the demand which they may, conjecturally or certainly, represent on one side of the bargain.

Presumably some of the alien elements which have carried on a propaganda to prevent American business expansion in response to the opportunities of the war will rage in Congress against this ruling of the Federal Reserve Board. Yet it is safe to say that a judgment backed by so much common-sense will not be upset by the politics of hyphenism.

**The Morals of Paris and of Topeka.**  
The respective moral tendencies of Paris and Topeka have just been the subject of an illuminating controversy between Mme. ANNA HELD and the Rev. FESTUS FOSTER. As chief film censor of Kansas, the Rev. Mr. FOSTER branded Mme. HELD's movie production of "Madame in President's" as immoral and unfit for exhibition in Kansas "opera houses." The chief film censor explained:

"Mme. HELD displays her lingerie and a little too much of her personal charms. That condemns the picture. It is the purpose of the Kansas censors to put the ban on anything that is harmful. It is better that our people know nothing of the wicked ways of the world. A person would be better off if he knew nothing of badness."

At which Mme. HELD exclaimed, according to report, "Donkey, nest-egg!" adding, as if it were possible to emphasize the eloquence of the comment:

"If I show my shoulder a little, what is the harm? I do not know him [the censor]. I never heard of him until he announced that I am a dangerous person to the people of Kansas. If he feels that way, then I say he is the kind of a man who should live in a narrow little chicken coop."

All will agree that the controversy, viewed from whatever standpoint, is to be deplored. It is unfortunate that friends of the belligerents did not take steps to prevent it by diplomatic means, say an exchange of notes, for the resort to verbal bombs seems so utterly unnecessary. The censor complained further:

"It [the film] misrepresents the married man and will have a tendency to shake the confidence women have in their husbands. That seems to be the lesson, that you can't trust a man."

But, by the Rev. Mr. FOSTER's own admission:

"Men are to be trusted. Not one Kansas man out of ten would flirt with a married woman."

Of course he wouldn't, and therein lies the difficulty in fathoming the Rev. Mr. FOSTER's opposition. For our part we believe that the censor is entirely too conservative. Surely far more than 90 per cent. of the men of Kansas know nothing of the wicked ways of the world, nothing of the badness, and are proof against the charm of even so seductive a thing as a little of Mme. ANNA HELD's shoulder, as pictured on the movie screen.

On the other hand, Mme. ANNA can blame only herself or her manager for having the temerity to think of invading Kansas. Did she not know that WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE, found canvases in the Louvre—old masterpieces, the world had considered them theretofore—which Emporia, and supposedly Topeka, would never tolerate? Furthermore, he wrote:

"One sees pictures in the Paris boulevard windows which would make a Kansas man run screaming down the street."

What would the Emporia sage say if the Rev. FESTUS FOSTER permitted him even fleeting photographic shoulder glimpses?

**The New German Sea Raider.**  
The powerful new German "submarine," which, according to Mr. ANCRALD HUBB, the British naval expert, has been seen by neutral vessels in the Baltic bears a striking resemblance to the submersible proposed and planned by an American officer, Ensign V. N. RICE, in the service publication *Naval Institute Proceedings* about a year ago. Mr. HUBB says that the German "terror" has a cylindrical hull with an armored battery completely watertight built into it. The guns are of a calibre never before used on a submarine:

"The boats possess the faculty of becoming submerged, and can bring the armored battery just above the water, leaving the hull of the submarine, which would otherwise be riddled with shot, under water."  
These boats, which have the qualities of the original American monitors, have in addition the offensive and defensive power of submersibles.

Ensign RICE called his design an armored submersible. She was to be a surface boat of at least twenty knot speed. "No dependence within torpedo and gun range would be placed," he said, "upon invisibility, reliance being placed solely upon invulnerability." Except when submerged until her well protected and rounded deck was below the water, and her battery just above it, the boat would be navigated on the surface; "diving apparatus being dispensed with, the weight of storage batteries, motors and other under water gear would be absent and that allowance put into armor." Moving awash she would be indistinguishable "at a distance which would make a battleship or other purely surface craft clearly visible."

As to the submersible's invulnerability, "at practical torpedo ranges the angle of fall from large guns would be so small that an under water run of projectiles would be exceedingly rare, and it is believed that even the largest shells impinging upon an almost flat armored deck would be ineffective, so that the nearer the submersible approached her enemy the more secure from attack she would become." With her armored deck the big submersible could not be rammed and put out of action by a destroyer; in fact, the destroyer would get the worst of the impact.

Ensign RICE contended that "the present type of submarine must change or rather give way to a new development which is capable of competing on equal terms with the battleship or its modification." He believed that if the United States had a flotilla of armored submersibles equipped with torpedoes and powerful batteries no enemy fleet of dreadnoughts and battle cruisers could keep the sea against them. He suggested that the old ram Katabalin was "available for trials which would substantiate claims made for this type of craft at little cost," but the presumption is that our constructors spent no time upon his submersible. The Germans may have done so, however; they are familiar with what is printed in our service publications, and they have open minds. It may turn out that their new craft is a submersible and not a submarine. In twelve months they could build such submersibles as the American naval officer proposed.

Dr. WILSON has now thrown his hat "technically" into the ring. But technically it doesn't belong there.

Wellesley "started something" with its "composite figure." Swarthmore coeds have taken up the Venus challenge and claim the team and individual championships. A pretty pother there will be of it when the boys of Harvard and Yale begin wearing out tape measures in the search for a composite Apollo. The amusing thing about it is that the "average" person is so sure to match few or none of the specifications obtained by averaging a crowd. And how were the nether measurements of the Venus of the Louvre obtained, anyway?

It fares the land that increases in population and decreases in patriotism.

One of the oddities in the daily news is the report of the wedding of a 400-pound man whose father was president of a "prediction company." Destiny is a punster.

Bad mental habits are easily formed. It is not difficult to change your mind after you have learned not to mind the change.

Dr. EDWARD LIVINGSTON TRUBB, whose death recently gave occasion for publication of many anecdotes of his most distinguished patient at the present, Dr. ANTON LOUIS STREXEN, deserves consideration for his scientific attainments and achievements, somewhat overshadowed by his personal legend. The post-graduate school for specialists in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis which will continue and expand the work which the doctor began thirty-two years ago will be a monument to the memory of his useful labors.

Is it KITCHEN'S foes in the House who are too proud to fight?

Representative EBERNEZER HILL of Connecticut deplores the fact that the United States must "humbly beg" from Germany dyes to print our money and postage stamps, and then "humbly beg" from the English the necessary machinery for printing them. He says that the countrymen who transported from a neutral port a neutral ship across an ocean we fondly believed to be free." Carrying his argument to a logical finish, the Congressman hinted the possibility, highly unpleasant to contemplate, that we may in time be unable to get colors for the flag. Mr. HILL is not one of those who would be willing to see the Red and the Blue fade out of Old Glory.

How readily a plank in a party platform becomes a scrap of paper!

Will the "masses" of Latin America be happier when they learn to read and write? Eighty per cent. of illiteracy is not necessarily an indication of the best phases of primitive civilization, but, on the other hand, how the labors of spies and of anarchist plotters would be handicapped were they deprived of pencil and paper.

Mitchell in fare fight.—Newspaper headline.

And, of course, fighting fair.

It will be just as well for the hibernians of spring to hold off a day or two more.

Villa promises protection to Americans and other foreigners. But "one may smile, and smile, and be a Villa still."

Maryland hears "the distant thunder-hum," and, with ex-Attorney-General BONAPARTE as spokesman, calls it "a man of plain, fearless speech, and of prompt, fearless action," the self-proclaimed "one" to whom the Kaiser is "the other" cause of Presidential fear.

or high balls are to be made; will the new munitions be more deadly than the old; will the factories continue to make poisonous fumes; is JOHN BARLEYCORN a conscript, and such chatter.

How can a world war by any possibility be fought to a finish?

The most popular song at Albany just now is "Drink to me only with thine eyes."

Our Canadian neighbors do well to take precautions against a border attack "by 10,000 armed Germans." If only to ease their troubled minds. We guess, however, there is not much more tangible stuff back of this scare than the lengthened shadow of Fenian scouts of bygone days. The German peril must not be estimated by Sir SAM HUGHES by the extent of the noise it makes.

Farmer MURPHY's "revelation" of a mighty victory in these parts by a dark people is cumulative evidence to that already supplied by many Broadway "girl shows" that the blondes have got to be mighty brisk and smiling to check their waning vogue.

Grape juice is rapidly growing in popularity for use on vouchers.

The Arcturion had a short life and a merry one from Jack's point of view.

If LINDLEY M. GARRISON could not adapt himself to Mr. WILSON's weathercock convictions, why in the name of common sense should JIMSON HANCOCK be "mentioned" for the war portfolio?

ROOSEVELT is the greatest American and his candidacy is in everybody's mind.—ROBERT M. EAGLE of Wyandotte county, Kansas.

The Colonel agrees with his Kansas friend, who wants to attend the Chicago convention as a delegate.

Explosion on Brooklyn L.—Headline.

With the E, K and U boats also in peril, the alphabet seems to have no assurance of safety on either sea or land.

CONGRESSIONAL OSTRICHES.

Will They Learn to Prepare Only After Bitter Experience?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Washington foresees that his countrymen would need guidance in the future, such as his own experience could give them, and furnished some excellent advice in his "Farewell Address." Has it been heeded? Not to any great extent, and certainly not with respect to the warning that the most effective way to secure peace is to be prepared for war.

For would be the only way to prepare for war is to maintain an army and navy able to cope successfully with any foreign invader. Reliance on the militia of the States has been and is now living in a fool's paradise. It is of course ridiculous to imagine that the militia of forty-eight States could be mobilized and concentrated at a given point in time to be of any value in case of invasion, and it is still more ridiculous to suppose that such a disorganized body would be of much use when assembled.

Ex-Secretary of War GARRISON, who was the strong man of the Wilson Cabinet, in letters to President Wilson preceding his resignation pointed out the weakness and instability of the militia of the States, and urged that the national Government's plan for a continental army was probably not made because he believed such a force was not needed, or that it was a mere problem, but for the reason that a large increase in the regular army, the only practical way to prepare, would not be acceptable to the present Congress, whose members would not in the street be unable to comprehend.

What the United States probably needs and some day will get, if its representatives are wise, is a small, efficient, and well equipped army, and a small, efficient, and well equipped navy, and a small, efficient, and well equipped air force. These three forces, if properly maintained, would be able to protect the United States from any foreign invader, and would be able to maintain the peace of the world.

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### THE OLD FIVE POINTS.

How the Worst Slum in the World Was Obliterated From the Map.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In an interesting article on reminiscences, published recently, the writer said: "The Five Points, where Worth, Baxter and Park streets intersect, still remain for time and progress can't very well efface street crossings." This is unquestionably true, but it leaves out of consideration the fact that the old Five Points was practically terminated by the opening of Worth street.

Prior to the establishment of that thoroughfare in 1857 or about that year, directly through the centre of the district then known as the Five Points, the locality was one of the plague spots of the earth. The worst stories ever told of Whitechapel in London, the Barbary Coast in San Francisco or any other of the slums that have disgraced civilization were easily paralleled there, and it was often heard by writers of the day that the name of New York City that within a quarter of a mile of the City Hall there was a neighborhood in which no uniformed policeman dared go alone after nightfall.

This condition obtained throughout and for a little time after the civil war. Even in broad daylight it was impossible for a reputable citizen to pass through the neighborhood safely without police escort. It was a veritable "city of refuge" for criminals of every kind, and a place of refuge for the runaway slaves from the South, through which escape was easy for fugitives from justice, abounding in hiding places and peopled with unscrupulous and abandoned wretches of both sexes that were to be found in the world.

The first efforts to ameliorate these conditions were made by home missionary workers, the police and the city authorities. In 1861 a committee was organized to clean up the district. In 1862 I accompanied a party of these workers one bright Sunday morning, and saw the effect of a religious service in a squalid room which they had somehow secured for the purpose, back of a saloon in the very heart of the district. To policemen went along without them the women of the party would never have returned. Even accompanied as they were by the bluecoats, curses, rhubarb and mud were hurled at them from several open windows, but the officers made no attempt to apprehend the offenders. They knew it would be useless.

The first party was the Rev. W. C. Van Meter, one of the pioneer workers in the field, who established the Howard Mission at 40 New Bowery, and who was a great help to the workers. Another was a C. Arnold, afterward a Baptist clergyman in Greenpoint, while a third was Oliver Dyer, a brilliant man, Swedenborgian preacher, who wrote a book, "The Water Street House," as "The Water Street House," which was a great help to the workers. Dyer said he had seen a great deal of the great intelligence and much good that was in his nature.

Three ladies went along to sing hymns. They were Lottie Wallace and Katie Stark, two famous concert singers at that time, and a third, afterward a member of the Five Points House of Industry, whose name is forgotten for the moment.

It was an exciting trip, because of the unquestionable danger of mob violence, such as was not infrequently at the time. The workers were not allowed to go in and help along in the work of purification, begun in that fashion and carried on solely by similar efforts until the worst slum in the world was destroyed a great number of the most objectionable buildings in the locality and laid daylight in on many others.

NEW YORK, February 15. D. A. C.

### ARMED MERCHANT SHIPS.

Support for the German Contention That They Are War Vessels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The German contention that the commerce of a merchantman armed, though feebly, is a warship, to give such a vessel clearance is to make ourselves responsible for her activities thereafter. The same would be true if we were to have reason to believe that we had sent a vessel to sea in order to be converted.

It takes manhood to run a submarine, and it takes courage to attack a merchant ship. This should be a lesson to our navy. The navy should be able to handle a merchant ship as well as a warship. The navy should be able to handle a merchant ship as well as a warship. The navy should be able to handle a merchant ship as well as a warship.

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### FOUR MIGHTY PROPHETS.

Certain Old Bay State Promoters of Republicanism Examined.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The recent Roosevelt declaration by Messrs. Gardner, Cushing, Bird and Washburn of this Grand Old Commonwealth in reply to the report of J. W. Wells, Commissioner of the Department of Banks, and land we live in some explanation of the superstition that political ducks are or can be a source of political strength to some other aspirant for office. A political sea multiplied by four is still zero. Let us go into details.

Mr. Gardner ran for Governor of Massachusetts and was beaten out of his boots. Mr. Cushing is a school master and politician who entered the lists against Sam May for the nomination on the Republican ticket for Governor of Massachusetts. Were Mr. Cushing's head as long as his legs he would have known better. He was walloped ignominiously.

Mr. Bird is a Progressive in politics, a dodo in political wisdom and action, a real good old scout, with money to burn, a bird to pluck. He is a member of the House of Representatives, and he is a member of the House of Representatives, and he is a member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Washburn is a statesman of Worcester, a cagey satirical rooster, is now a has been and full of chagrin and rather a joke as a booster. His jacket for Rob.

I am not sure this quartet of "mighty prophets" can be of any political benefit to the deaf and dumb man of Oyster Bay, outside of making a noise and a few dollars for the pockets of Messrs. McCall and Weeks. These Roosevelt voters seem more like the thrown than the power behind it. Their association of long political noses with the name of Washburn is a mistake. The name of Washburn is a mistake. The name of Washburn is a mistake.

It is not sure these four Roosevelt reverberators should not be taken too seriously. They represent no tangible asset in our Republican politics. They cannot save the party, and they cannot save the party, and they cannot save the party. They cannot save the party, and they cannot save the party, and they cannot save the party.

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### RICHARDS ABSOLVED IN UNION BANK CASE.

Superintendent Not Guilty of Mismanagement as Depositors Charged.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION.

ALBANY, Feb. 15.—Charges of mismanagement in the liquidation of Union Bank and private banks, particularly the Union Bank of Brooklyn, which were filed with Gov. Whitman against State Superintendent of Banks Eugene Lamb Richards, were today dismissed, according to the report of John J. Wells, Commissioner of the Department of Banks, and land we live in some explanation of the superstition that political ducks are or can be a source of political strength to some other aspirant for office. A political sea multiplied by four is still zero. Let us go into details.

Mr. Gardner ran for Governor of Massachusetts and was beaten out of his boots. Mr. Cushing is a school master and politician who entered the lists against Sam May for the nomination on the Republican ticket for Governor of Massachusetts. Were Mr. Cushing's head as long as his legs he would have known better. He was walloped ignominiously.

Mr. Bird is a Progressive in politics, a dodo in political wisdom and action, a real good old scout, with money to burn, a bird to pluck. He is a member of the House of Representatives, and he is a member of the House of Representatives, and he is a member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Washburn is a statesman of Worcester, a cagey satirical rooster, is now a has been and full of chagrin and rather a joke as a booster. His jacket for Rob.